



WOMENSCOUNCIL.WI.GOV

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council – DRAFT**

**Friday, April 28, 2023; 1:00-2:15 PM**

**Held Virtually via MS Teams**

**Council Members Present:**

x	Gabby Aranda-Pino	Ex.	Sen. Dianne Hesselbien		Carrie Richard
x	Dr. Jolene Bowman	x	Denise Gaumer-Hutchison, <i>Chair</i>	x	Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez
	Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara		Rosalyn McFarland		<i>Vacant</i>
Ex.	Rep. Jodi Emerson	x	Amanda Medina-Roddy		<i>Vacant</i>
	Rachel Fernandez	x	Nerissa Nelson		<i>Vacant</i>

**Staff Present:** Jenifer Cole, WWC Executive Director; Erin Wruk, WWC intern; Richard Rydecki, DOA-DEO Deputy Administrator; Margie Berkowitz, Sen. Hesselbien's office; Marissa Feller, Lt. Gov.'s office

**Public Present:** None

**1) Call to Order & Opening Remarks - Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chair**

- i) Chair called the meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council to order at 1:04 PM.
- ii) D. Hutchison welcomed Lt. Gov. Rodriguez for her first official meeting with the Women's Council.
- iii) D. Hutchison congratulated Dr. Bowman on her appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.
- iv) D. Hutchison thanked everyone for their attendance at the Council's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.
- v) Briefly talked about recent events, including UW-Green Bay Women's Leadership Conference.

**2) Approval of Meeting Minutes –** Quorum was not met; action could not be taken on minutes from February 24, 2023 and March 23, 2023 meetings.

**3) Vote on Additional Executive Committee Member –** Quorum was not met; action could not be taken on nominee Rachel Fernandez.

**4) Elect Two Officers: Vice-Chair and Secretary –** Quorum was not met; action could not be taken on nominations and elections of officers.

**5) Executive Director's Report – Jenifer Cole**

**a) Recent Events:**

- i) J. Cole spoke on the UW-Green Bay Women's Leadership Institute – Schreiber Foods endowment, hope to create dedicated roles for leaders; networking opportunities and creating connections for the Council's research report; event was well-attended.

- ii) UW GWS consortium held a 3-day virtual conference - J. Cole and E. Wruk attended several sessions. J. Cole attended the session of 4-W (Women & Wellbeing in Wisconsin & the World): a coalition group getting professors and leaders across disciplines to leverage and focus work on women and wellbeing locally and globally. 4-W's presentation at the conference was on human trafficking and their work with survivors to break cycle of silence/invisibility; similarities and comparisons in migration/trafficking across geographies were also explored in the presentation. J. Cole also attended a session on disability justice and the COVID-19 pandemic. J. Cole reported on the final session she attended: Equitable breast cancer prevention and treatment, in which cancer survivor presenters shared their own stories and subsequent work engaging in clinical trials, promoting the participation of Black people in clinical trials given the history of medical abuse and exploitation of Black patients.

E. Wruk attended session titled Cite Black Women. This group of academic activists focuses on researching the contributions of Black women in academic spheres, tracing back concepts and their use to find the original producers of these concepts (EX: Kimberle Crenshaw and her concept of intersectionality).

- iii) MMIW DOJ taskforce – E. Wruk attended the MMIW Taskforce meeting and shared a summary of the meeting.
  - i. The MMIW taskforce meeting focuses on their inclusion in the Governor's proposed budget and discussion on verbiage used in budget (EX: "tribal members" vs. "descendents", raising the issue of needing to prove Indigeneity for protection and inclusion within the task force's jurisdiction.

**b) Reminder about Records and Ethics Trainings**

- i) J. Cole gave a reminder for Council members to take those record and ethics trainings, as they must be completed every year, even if they have been completed in the past.
- ii) J. Cole will bump up the email on the trainings and is seeing about the possibility of a presentation from the legal team instead of separate trainings.

**c) Budget Check-in**

- i) J. Cole reported that, with recent expenses taken into account, there will be approximately \$15,000 remaining in the Council's budget for fiscal year 2023.
- ii) The Council is likely to have underspending this year given lack of staff person for several months and underspending in first half of fiscal year.
- iii) The Council should use funds as they are available because the funds do not carry over to next fiscal year. The remaining funds can be spent on the following:
  - i. Graphic designers to refresh and modernize all design assets for the Council.
  - ii. Some money may be spent on printing costs; EX: nametags.
  - iii. E. Wruk's internship will continue for an additional month to help with office clean-up, etc.

**6) Discuss and Decide on Sponsorships:**

- i) All sponsorship opportunities have been compiled onto one document shared by J. Cole. Quorum of the executive committee present can decide on sponsorships.
- ii) **WWIG Gala in Madison on May 17<sup>th</sup>** - Council expressed interest in the Benefactor Sponsorship (\$500 level). This level would allow for two attendees at the Gala.

Minutes are not official until approved by the Council.

- iii) **Women's Business Conference in Eau Claire on October 25<sup>th</sup>** - D. Hutchison mentioned there is high interest from Rep. Emerson in the Women's Council sponsoring and attending. D. Hutchison expressed interest in the Breakfast Sponsor level, with agreement from N. Nelson. D. Hutchison expressed an emphasis on having the opportunity to talk and connect with other entities at the event, having a table to give out brochures, pens, etc. A. Roddy expressed the same sentiment; there is the issue of making sure we can have four attendees at the conference. The Council will settle currently on the \$1500 breakfast sponsor option.
- iv) **Zonta Club of Madison International Women's Day 2024** - J. Cole reported on the planning of the event for next year in March. The event will have the purpose of educating Madison area residents and addressing policies affecting women and girls. J. Cole will attend the preliminary planning meeting to report back to Council on possible involvement in the event.

## 7) Project Updates

- a) **MMIW Day of Awareness** - J. Cole reported on the MMIW Day of Awareness event set for next Friday, May 5 at noon, outside of Capitol on MLK street side; there is a back-up room inside the capitol in case of rain. There will be prayer, songs, and speakers from 12-1 PM. Hutchison asked about colors to be worn/not worn, and J. Cole responded that the color to be worn is red; regalia to be worn by speakers such as ribbon skirts. After the amplified speaker portion, attendees will circle the capitol/wrap the capitol in red.
- b) **Hmong Women's Story Cloth Exhibit** – J. Cole reported on the status of the Hmong Women's story cloth and the project had experienced some delays. Space in Capitol rotunda is reserved for the whole month of May, but the quilt will not be going up May 1<sup>st</sup>. J. Cole will give updates for when to expect the cloth to be displayed.
- c) **Organizational Scan** – E. Wruk reported she sent out the organizational scan to Council members, asking for any additional suggestions/connections that council members have to add. E. Wruk asked Council members get back to her with any additional contacts/connections to add to the scan, with a deadline of May 5. J. Cole shared there is a meeting scheduled May 8 with Women's Funds Alliance to continue drafting the project proposal, so council member input is definitely needed by then.

## 8) Council Discussion on Current Legislation and Biennial Budget Provisions that impact women and girls - D.

Hutchison spoke with members of Joint Finance Committee to keep Women's Council funds in the budget, council members encouraged to contact those offices as well; D. Hutchison remarked that Council should have that support from the budget to continue our bipartisan charge.

J. Cole noted documents sent in the last email that highlighted current legislation impacted women in Wisconsin and provisions in the Governor's budget proposal that support women or intersect with women's issues. J. Cole asked that council members review this legislative tracking and reach out with any questions, any discussion that they want to have in regard to the proposed bills pertaining to women; stressed the importance of understanding current bills in circulation, budget initiatives, etc.

N. Nelson asked if there is an external source for that chart tracking legislation. J. Cole shared that all information contained in the chart is publicly available information on the legislative website about each bill. The chart is not in support/opposition to bills, more so for tracking, monitoring legislation as it moves through the legislature.

**9) Closing Remarks and Adjournment – Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chair**

D. Hutchison asked how Council can use underspending to support other events and initiatives, including grants for Women's Funds around the state. J. Cole asked Council members to send event and sponsorship proposals along and will need to ask DOA finance and legal counsel folks about issuing grants. Council asked to think of more groups or programs that may need or deserve more help/attention that we could partner with. J. Cole noted that the June meeting will be in person at Stevens Point to have the opportunity for Council members to connect in person.

N. Nelson asked about strategies that may be employed to meet quorum, how to ensure Council quorum going forward, such as additional reminders possibly? D. Hutchison asked if staff can serve as proxy for Council members not present at meetings; J. Cole confirmed council members cannot have staff act as proxy to meet quorum. J. Cole shared strategies, encouraging council members to attend, and D. Hutchison proposed a letter making a firm request for council members to attend. A. Roddy suggested doing another survey to gauge meeting times work for members' schedules.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenifer Cole  
Executive Director, Wisconsin Women's Council